

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, US, VS

SUBJ: KHUKRIT ON THE VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE PLANES AT UTAPAO

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 6.
FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS ON
THE VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE PLANES AT UTAPAO.

REPORTER: WHAT ACTION WILL THE CABINET TAKE IN REGARD TO
PLANES IN WHICH VIETNAMESE FLED AND CAME TO UTAPAO?

KHUKRIT: THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ANY CONSIDERATION BECAUSE
THERE ARE RULES AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE ALREADY. IF YOU
REALLY WANT TO KNOW, THEY ARE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE
THAI GOVERNMENT. WE MUST SEIZE ALL PLANES THAT COME FROM
VIETNAM. WHAT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IS UP TO THE THAI
GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER ALONE. I INSTRUCTED THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO SEND FOR THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
AND HE WAS INFORMED THAT ANY PLANES FROM VIETNAM WHICH HAVE
COME AND LANDED IN UTAPAO MUST BE KEPT IN U TAPAO, NOT
TAKEN OUT OF OUR COUNTRY.

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REPORTER: IT IS REPORTED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS
ALREADY REMOVED SOME OF THEM.

KHUKRIT: NONE HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY. THE UNITED STATES
ITSELF KNOWS NOTHING AT ALL IN THE MATTER.

REPORTER: SINCE OUR OWN MEN CANNOT ENTER THERE, HOW
WILL WE BE ABLE TO SUPERVISE THOSE PLANES?

KHUKRIT: WE HAVE GIVEN AN ORDER ALREADY. A FRIENDLY
COUNTRY MUST LISTEN TO AND RESPECT OUR ORDER. WHAT NEED
IS THERE TO HAVE TO SUPERVISE THEM LIKE CHILDREN. WHEN
ANY AGREEMENT IS REACHED AND THEY GIVE US A PROMISE, THEY
MUST KEEP THAT PROMISE.

REPORTER: BUT SOUTH VIETNAM HAS SENT A CABLE TO OUR
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REQUESTING US TO RETURN...

KHUKRIT: THAT'S CORRECT. NORTH VIETNAM SENT A CABLE REQUEST-
ING THEM TO BE RETURNED TO SOUTH VIETNAM AND WE HAVE ACCEPTED
THE REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION. THERE MUST BE OTHER RELATIONS
WITH EACH OTHER FIRST. WHETHER THEY ARE RETURNED OR NOT WILL
DEPEND ON EXTENDING RECOGNITION. AFTER PEACE AND ORDER ARE
RESTORED, AND IT HAS A STABLE AND LEGAL GOVERNMENT, THEN
TALKS CAN BE HELD AND UNDERSTANDING REACHED.

REPORTER: WILL WE TURN THEM OVER THE VIETNAM OR
RETURN THEM TO THE UNITED STATES?

KHUKRIT: WE WILL BE THE PERSONS TO MAKE A DECISION.
THERE IS NO NEED TO GO AND HOLD TALKS WITH THE UNITED
STATES. THIS IS THAILAND. IF THEY COME AND HOLD TALKS
WITH US, WE WILL TALK WITH THEM. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR
CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER.

REPORTER:

KHUKRIT: HOW WILL CONSIDERATION BE HELD? I HAVE
ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS ALREADY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES
AND REGULATIONS.
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REPORTER: DO WE KNOW THE NUMBER OF PLANES FOR CERTAIN?

KHUKRIT: I KNOW. BUT IT IS A MILITARY SECRET. I
CANNOT TELL YOU.

REPORTER: HOW WOULD WE BE ABLE TO KNOW, SUPPOSE THE
AMERICAN AUTHORITIES CHANGE THE MARKINGS ON THE PLANES?

KHUKRIT: THAT COULD NOT BE DONE. SECURITY MEASURES
HAVE BEEN TAKEN.
MASTERS

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